

CHAS-341
RICHARD BLAND HOUSE
Vicinity of Gallant Green
Private

Early nineteenth century

The Richard Bland House is one of Charles County's more important examples of early nineteenth century regional architecture. A small, one-story plus attic frame house with end chimneys, it is one of the best preserved representative examples of a regional house type popular here throughout most of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It is also the only known house in Southern Maryland that retains almost all of its original exterior sheathing of riven clapboards, a covering that extended onto the roof as well. Portions of the latter are also preserved. Containing two principal ground floor rooms separated by a center hall with a narrow corner stair, the house has a slightly later one-room extension on the south side giving it an ell-shaped plan similar to Society Hill in Charles County (CH-37) and Kingston in St. Mary's County (STM-131).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-341

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

FILE # 0903415304

1 NAME

HISTORIC

RICHARD BLAND HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Young Road, approximately 1-1/4 mile southeast of the junction of Young Road and Aquasco Road

CITY, TOWN

Hughesville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Richard Bland, et al

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

3505 Hamilton Street

CITY, TOWN

Hyattsville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20782

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P. O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the north side of a private drive approximately one-quarter mile from the end of the public road, the Richard Bland House is a small, one-story frame dwelling of a probable early nineteenth century date of construction.

The north front is four bays in width, having a transomed entrance door located in the third bay from the west end and flanking windows of 6-over-6 double hung sash. On the opposite side the house is three bays, with a transomed entrance door occupying the third bay from the west end. A one-bay, shed-roofed extension occupies the area between the door and the east end of the house; the remaining wall area is covered by a shed-roofed porch. At each end of the main block is an exterior chimney. The entire west chimney and the stack of the east chimney have been rebuilt in recent years; however, the base of the east chimney survives and has stepped weatherings below what was a free-standing stack.

One of the most important exterior features of the house is the presence of its original, beaded, riven clapboard siding on the front and most of the rear elevations. The roof of the house was also sheathed with riven clapboards, portions of which can be seen beneath the roof of the south porch. The presence of similar roof sheathing beneath the roof of the south shed extension indicates that it and the porch were added after the main block was built. There is other evidence to indicate that a shed-roofed porch also extended the full width of the north front. The ends of the house and the south rear wall of the south extension were resheathed in later years.

At the east end of the house stands a small kitchen wing with an exterior end chimney, two bays wide on the north front and one bay wide on the rear side. The entrance door occupies the first bay in from the east end of the front elevation. The chimney, with stepped weatherings on all three sides, has a later and crudely fashioned stack. With the exception of the siding, most of the trim, windows and doors are of a later date. The two entrance doors of the main block are of a mid- or late nineteenth century date, while the windows and trim appear to be of even more recent origin. However, the trim is of a basic profile appropriate to the probable construction date of the house. The trim is painted a pale rose color that with the weathered gray of the siding presents a most attractive exterior appearance. The house stands on brick foundation walls, but the north foundation has been covered by cement. The roof on both parts of the house has been recently sheathed with tin.

On the first floor, the main block has two rooms divided by a central stair passage. The south extension contains a single room. Most of the original interior trim appears to have been replaced since
(continued on the attached sheet)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richard Bland House is one of Charles County's more important examples of early nineteenth century regional architecture. A small, one-story plus attic frame house with end chimneys, it is one of the best preserved representative examples of a regional house type popular here throughout most of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It is also the only known house in Southern Maryland that retains almost all of its original exterior sheathing of riven clapboards, a covering that extended onto the roof as well. Portions of the latter are also preserved. Containing two principal ground floor rooms separated by a center hall with a narrow corner stair, the house has a slightly later one-room extension on the south side giving it an ell-shaped plan similar to Society Hill in Charles County (CH-37) and Kingston in St. Mary's County (STM-131).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Richard Bland House is located on a 130-acre tract of land identified as Parcel 47, Map 26 of the Charles County Tax Maps (revised January, 1976).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation of #7 (Description)--RICHARD BLAND HOUSE
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it does not correspond to the facings of the hall door in the west room and the door between the east room and the south extension.

The earlier style profile of the trim on these doors indicate that they are probably original. The stair, narrow and with winders, is located in the southwest corner of the hall and rises to a hall and two small bedrooms in the attic. When the house was renovated in recent years for use as a hunting cabin, the attic was sealed off from the rest of the house. The east end wall of the west first floor room is sheathed with boards nailed to it like clapboard, the reason for which has not been determined. It has been suggested that the house initially began as a much smaller dwelling and was later enlarged to its present plan. There are, however, numerous consistencies in construction and other features that indicate that the main block was built much as it is today, with the only additions appearing to be porches on the front and rear and the existing south extension.

The fact that the riven clapboard sheathing is secured to the wall and roof framing with cut nails and has never been replaced (there are no empty nail holes beneath the present covering to indicate a previous sheathing), certain construction features and the original design of the chimneys suggest that the house was probably built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, possibly as late as 1825-35 and doubtfully before 1790-1800.



CH-341 ~~6-28~~

58% P.92

CHAS-341

RICHARD BLAND HOUSE

N. Front

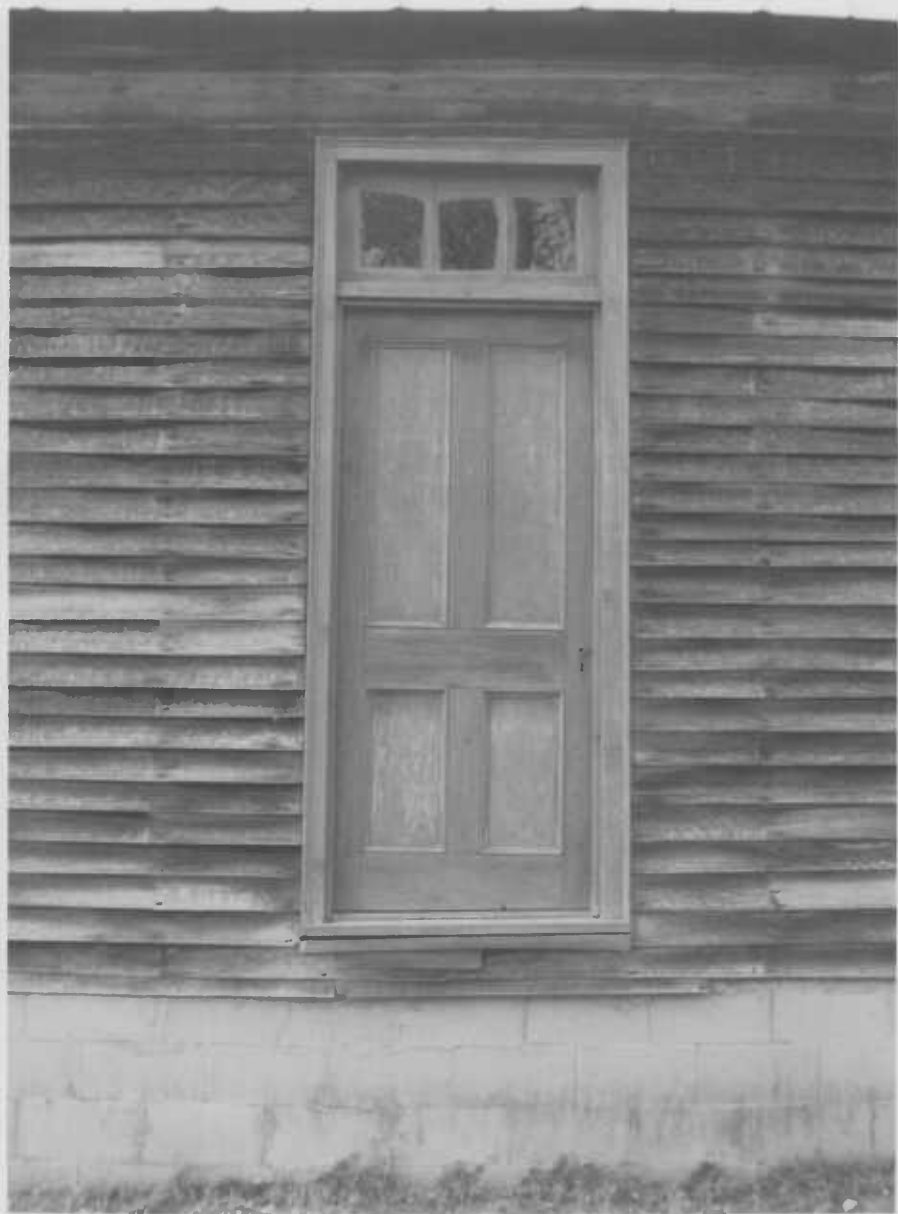
J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-341

RICHARD BLAND HOUSE

SW Ele. J.R.Rivoire, 1978



CHAS-341

RICHARD BLAND HOUSE

N. Door J.R.Rivoire, 1978